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👁 CARE 👁 VOICE 👁 ADVOCATE

EXPUNGEMENT Senate Bill 159

We are here to represent ARRO and the Presbyterian Church on the Self Development of People. We are a grass roots re entry program that help this client population become successful members of the community. WE SUPPORT the previous statute that allows for the one felony conviction to be expunged, however, limiting the "minor offenses" to be defined as 21 and under really doesn't do enough.

In previous bills, legislators, provided for ONE FELONY, and ONE MISDEANOR to allow for an expungement opportunity. It was not limited to those that were under the age of 21. This statute needs to eliminate the age specification. Minor offenses by definition are just that MINOR and it is easy to make a small mistake at any age. This statute would be better served for society as a whole to use the term "felony" in place of "conviction" in section 1 of the current statute. This would allow for minor mistakes not to be a factor in the expungement process.

We would also like to suggest that you reconsider the issue of the "life time offenses" as a total ban. In Michigan our "conspiracy" and drug convictions" have a maximum punishment of "life". People that make serious mistakes also deserve a second chance if they prove themselves. If the statute were to allow a time frame of 10 years following completion of any term of imprisonment" and a certificate of rehabilitation, with judge approval, it would allow those that made a mistake a second chance. In Michigan we have aiding and abetting laws that punish those that were "just there" that didn't commit murder, or played a minor role in a drug transaction, and the punishment can be up to life. We need to allow for discretion for those with convictions that carry "life" sentences. ARRO can give you many situational crimes where the "life" offender now has a master or law degree, or very productive members of society. Every story has two sides, even in the criminal justice system.

PLEASE ALLOW FOR CHANGES IN THIS BILL BEFORE IT IS PASSED.
Please contact our program to hear the side of successful ex offenders that deserve expungement, but because the law is so specific they are limited in what they can do in society.

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SDOP members